

THE CENTRALITE

October 2021



CENTRAL IS A RECONCILING IN
CHRIST CONGREGATION

Central's Staff

Pastor Laurie A. Jones
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(206-354-6756)

Vicar Ben Nickodemus
Pastoral Intern

Minister to Christus House &
Campus Ministry
Sister Clare Josef-Maier

Organist/Choirmaster
A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

Associate Organist
Lindsey H. Rodgers

Parish Nurse
Sally Diehm

Parish Administrator
Kristi Hoiland

Financial Manager
Cindy Culpepper

Children, Youth & Family
Coordinator Crystal Miller

Church Council

President, Larry Sutton
Vice Pres, Sheri Pyron
Secretary, Jack Bennett
Treas, Charlotte Bontrager
Jean Clancey
Matt Haugen
Chris Henry
Jill Liedtke
Dennis Lindsay
Sonia Macke

CENTRAL LUTHERAN MISSION STATEMENT
TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS BY:

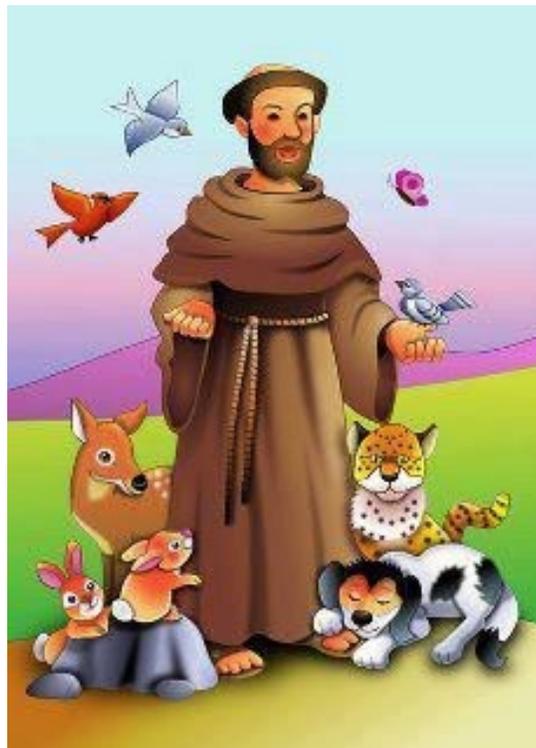
*LOVING GOD AND ONE ANOTHER
NURTURING FAITHFUL LIVING
SERVING THOSE IN NEED
SHARING THE GOSPEL*

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 3rd

In the parking lot at 12:30pm

You are invited to bring your four-footed companions, birds, reptiles, and other creatures (or a favorite stuffed animal) to church for a special blessing as we celebrate The Festival of Saint Francis, the patron saint of animals, and all-around good guy.



Dear Friends,

As I write this, I can't help but wonder: How can I put into words what is on my heart when my heart is so heavy? Surely by now you must know how much I care about each and every one of you—and yes, I know you care about me as well. Five years ago when I received the call to serve as your pastor I knew in my heart that it wouldn't take long before I'd come to love the people who make up the body of Christ here at Central Lutheran in Eugene. What I think I probably already knew, but didn't fully realize at the time, is that sometimes love hurts.

It hurts—and my heart is heavy—on account of how much we've all lost since this global pandemic reared its ugly head and wreaked havoc on nearly every aspect of our lives. My heart is heavy because of all of the losses we've experienced—both people and shared experiences—far too many to name. I often find myself joining the psalmist of old who cried out in lament, "How long, O Lord?"

How long before we can be fully present as a community of faith and join our hearts in worship together under one roof? That is, after all, the primary reason we are united as members of the body of Christ here at Central: To worship and praise God, is it not?

And while I know there are still some among us who are unable to safely gather in person for worship, and that will remain true long after the threat of COVID has passed, personally I am convinced that there are others of us who are able to gather in worship to give God our thanks and praise, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to go in peace and serve the Lord, but may be choosing *not* to come to church.

My heart is heavy because pastorally I can't help but wonder if maybe it's become too easy to sit in the comfort of one's own home and worship via live-stream. I'm second-guessing my pastoral decision to allow you to partake of communion from your home during this unprecedented time, and pray I haven't given you the impression that the sacred meal Christ instituted doesn't really need to happen within the gathered community. And if that's the case, I fear I've been neglectful in my pastoral duties.

Let me be clear: Corporate worship is central to our life together. We gather to confess our sins before God and one another, trusting that God, who is faithful and just, forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. We hear the word of God and share in Christ's supper so that we can be nurtured and strengthened in our daily life. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord because we are the living, breathing hands and feet of Jesus. Yet as the body of Christ, as a community of faith, as people of God—having been created in the very image of God, redeemed by the cross of Christ, gifted and empowered by the Holy Spirit—we need to be together in our worship insofar as that is possible.

And so, I implore you, if you are able, come in person on Sunday mornings at 9am (8:30am starting November 7th). The body of Christ needs you, we need each other. And whenever you are *unable* to worship because you are sick, or caring for someone who is sick, or traveling, or working, or have unvaccinated children, or any number of good and valid reasons, by all means join us via the live-stream or Zoom with us at 11am. To God be the glory!

In Christ's Abiding Love,

+Pastor Laurie

Dear Friends,

"We believe in one God...maker of heaven and earth...And in one Lord Jesus Christ...through him all things were made...we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life..." (Excerpted from the Nicene Creed)

This past month, we have had several events related to creation care at Central. In late September we had a special worship service dedicated to God amidst Destruction: wildfires and natural disasters. This special worship service was in recognition of the year anniversary of the devastating fires in Oregon in September 2020 including the Holiday Farm fire near Eugene. We also were recognizing, though, not just that historical event, but the seeming continual natural disasters that have arisen among us. These disasters cause us much grief. Lives have been lost, homes destroyed, and a tremendous amount of our world continues to be wounded and damaged, especially our forests. We also recognized, however, that hope remains in Christ. If you were not able to be present online for our service, the service can be still be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxhCiYtELdU&t=20s>

Further, we have started a book study on a book from our upcoming Chi Rho speaker, Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker of his book *Coming Home to Earth* which is a book recognizing the mandate of creation care and how to take that seriously as followers of Christ and people of the resurrection. That study is Tuesday nights at 7pm on zoom (one does not have to have attended previous sessions to join the study). We also are celebrating the Feast of Saint Francis and the blessing of the animals the first Sunday in October.

In these moments of care for creation, it leads us to pause and ask what creation is and how it matters for our lives. Too frequently, when we talk about creation, we only talk about the beginning of creation – how God created the heavens and the earth. While that is an important question, it can make it sound like God's work creating the world is something that happened a very long time ago and is no longer happening. Instead, as we see in the phrases of the Nicene Creed excerpted above, that God is a creating God at all times. God did not create heaven and earth and simply walk away. Instead, God is the Lord, the giver of Life. That extends into the present and is continuing to happen into the future. God is in the act of creating wherever there is life. Life is not bound by temporal bounds – as something that happened long ago, but something that is continuing to bountifully be present continually. Life is further not bound by species – while God created humans with a purpose, so did God create all other life – animals, plants, all of creation itself for their purposes. Paul says that the entire creation is waiting in eager longing for the freedom of the glory of the children of God (Romans 8:21), not just one aspect or another – the entire creation. Every act of life on this earth is an act of God the creator. Those creating acts include salvation and redemption. God is creating, re-creating, and re-creating yet again in the face of destruction. Life is never static, it is always changing, and always adapting. That is the relationship we have with God and that God has with all of creation.

As we look to the future and look to hope, we do so with the hope of Christ in our lives to become the new creation in the world – addressing the continued needs of the world, grieving what has been lost, but in hope for the future that God is still with us and is continuing to create life amongst us.

In Christ's love,
Vicar Ben



WE'RE BACK!!! Quilters have returned and meet the first and third Thursday of the month at 9:30am to quilt. Needed: flat twin, colored sheets from Fred Meyer (Fred Meyer has them on sale often) or flat sheets from home (except white). Everyone who would like to join us are welcome. **See you Thursdays: October 7th and/or 21st at 9:30am**

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The CLC Book Club will meet **via ZOOM** on **Monday, October 11, 2021, at 7:00pm** to discuss *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep* by Joanna Cannon. Part coming-of-age story, part mystery, this is a quirky and utterly charming novel about a community in need of absolution and two girls learning what it means to belong. England, 1976. Mrs. Creasy is missing and the Avenue is alive with whispers. The neighbors blame her sudden disappearance on the heat wave, but ten-year-old Grace and Tilly aren't convinced. As the summer shimmers endlessly on, the girls decide to take matters into their own hands. Inspired by the local vicar, they go looking for God -- they believe that if they find Him they might also find Mrs. Creasy and bring her home. The discussion will be led by Jane Powell.



The ZOOM link will be sent out closer to the meeting date. New members are always welcome! If you are not on the CLC Book Club email list and would like to join the discussion, please email Betsy Berg < rb24berg@aol.com >.

Looking Ahead: The CLC Book Club will meet on **Monday, Nov. 8, 2021, at 7:00pm via Zoom** to discuss *High on the Hog* by Jessica Harris. The discussion will be led by Gary Wolfe.

TUESDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY

On Tuesday nights at 7pm via zoom from Sept 28-Nov. 2, Vicar Ben will lead a study of the book, *Coming Home To Earth* (Cascade, 2016) written by Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker, our upcoming Chi Rho speaker. This is a timely discussion of our current environmental crisis, what that means theologically, and what hope there is for the future. While the book is available from local booksellers, it is not required to read the book in order to participate in the class.



October 6, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

Relive the sunshine of summer as we share stories about Camp Lutherwood Oregon, and raise support that will help camp flourish from generation to generation! Log on with your loved ones, and participate in the live chat while you hear from friends new and old!

Two weeks until Spirit of Harvest!

Registration is open now at lutherwoodoregon.org/spirit-of-harvest. Sign up and plan to attend online at 7:00pm, Wednesday, Oct. 6.

Sneak peak and livestream kick-off: Sept. 29

Join auctioneer Patrick Siver for a **livestream kick-off event on Sept. 29** on our [Facebook page](#). Get details about how to participate through our online auction service, plus a preview of some top auction items.

New 11 AM worship on Zoom!

Central is offering a new kind of worship service on Zoom at 11am on Sundays starting October 3rd. We will not simply be doing an abbreviated liturgy of the 9am service a few hours later, but this service will have components of a more contemplative and contemporary nature. It will remain true to our Lutheran identity, while presenting a unique style of worship. We will be having a Service of the Word that will be filled with reflection and meaning. This will include a Psalm of Lament as we reflect upon the pain and suffering of the world, prayers of thanksgiving for who God is in our lives, contemporary reflective readings, a Gospel reading and Homily, a contemporary affirmation of our Christian faith, a time for worshipers to offer prayers of concern as well as prayers of thanksgiving, and a sending benediction. It recognizes the value of a service on Zoom – that we can see one another as we worship together, and recognize who we are as community. It also encourages us to be reflective of who we are in relationship with God. We hope this will be a service rich in meaning and community and we encourage you to come try it – even if you have already attended the 9am service – it will be a completely different experience for us as the people of God, one that seeks to connect us more deeply with God and with one another.

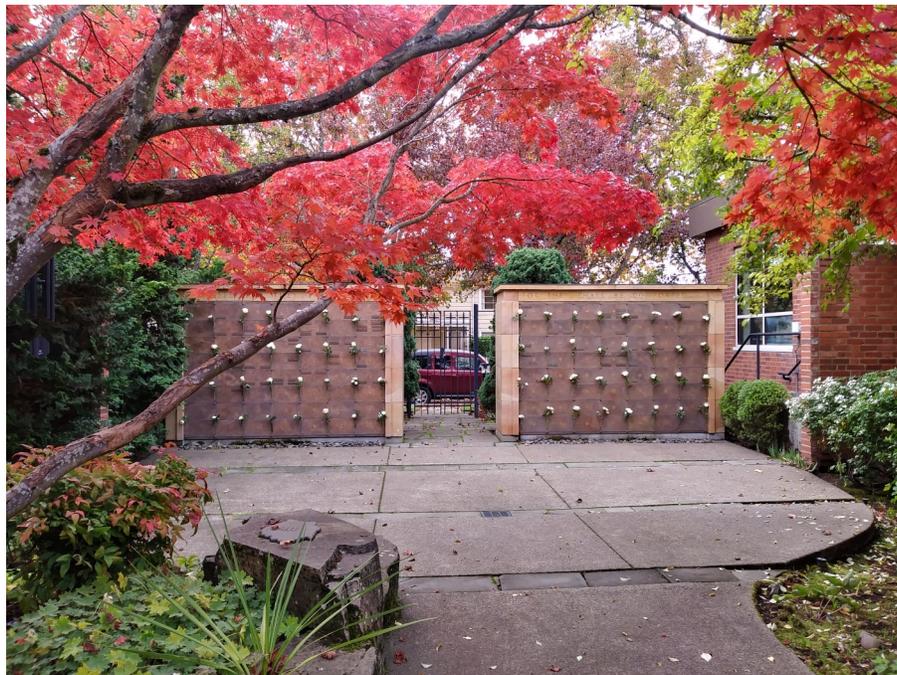
Family Camp At Camp Lutherwood October 8-10

Families from Central, United, and Emmaus are invited to a weekend retreat at Camp Lutherwood Friday evening thru Sunday morning worship, Oct. 8-10. For those who choose overnight accommodations, each household will be assigned their own cabin. Parents with children/youth can also come up for the day on Saturday to connect with other families and to enjoy the beauty of nature. There will be lots of fun activities and free time throughout the day. Cost: \$150 per family for overnight and \$10 per person for Saturday only (includes meals). To register, phone or text Crystal Miller at 503-320-4055.

HELP NEEDED: Preparing Meals for First Place Family Annex

The past 15 months, members of Central have been preparing a weekly meal for the families at St. Vincent de Paul's First Place Family Annex, Night Shelter, (the Annex). The shelter houses up to 20 families overnight, who are working with local agencies to find permanent housing. This past summer they were at capacity and had to put some families in pallet shelters in the parking lot. On any given Monday, Central members will prepare food for between 30 and 50 people, including many small children. COVID-19 protocols do not allow us to cook at the site, therefore we prepare the meals at the church kitchen, and then deliver to the Annex. In the past 15 months, there have been a few dedicated members who regularly sign up to help. We can use more help. I often fill in the slot when no one has signed up to cook. The food is all provided free from the Eugene Mission. We pick up the food on Friday, to be prepared and delivered to the First Place Family Center Annex between 4:00 PM and 4:30 PM, the following Monday. If you are interested in helping, or would like to know more about the program, please call Kim Meyers at 541-914-8442, or email klmcpa.meyers@gmail.com.

**Save the Date for our 6th Annual
All Saints Day Service
Central's Memorial Courtyard
Monday, November 1st at 5pm (rain or shine)**



The Central Lutheran Foundation

The Foundation is now accepting applications for grants to be awarded in early 2022. The CL Foundation's purpose is to support Lutheran, Christian, community and world-wide organizations that provide support to others. This reflects Central's commitment to Outreach. We encourage congregational members to invite organizations that qualify for funding to apply for these funds. The application can be downloaded from the Foundation section of the Central website and is also available in the church office. The deadline to apply is November 1, 2021. Over the years the CLF has provided support to numerous and varied organizations which have reported that the funding has been instrumental in helping them achieve their goals. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Wildish, steve@wildish.com or Rodger Knebel, rodger@emeraldexc.com.

Endowment News:

Annual Solicitation for Funding Special Projects

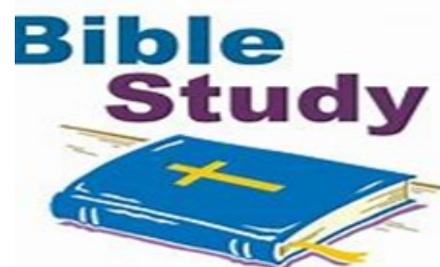
The CLC Endowment Fund Committee is actively soliciting proposals for funding special projects with the church which are outside of the normal budget. Acceptance of these proposals will be guided by the CLC Mission: to be the hands and feet of Jesus by loving God and one another, nurturing faithful living, serving those in need, and sharing the Gospel. Request forms may be obtained through the church office and must be coordinated through a ministry team, council, relevant staff person, and/or pastor. Please have your requests delivered to the office or to the committee by Wednesday, October 20, 2021. Endowment Fund Committee Members: Lorraine Davis, Cyndy Lane, Doug Martin, Becky Shurson, Kelly Colvin-Smith, Roger Welch and Larry Sutton (Council Rep).



WE KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Lue Berg, Terry Chap, Nicole Christie, Chris Dietz, Linnea Embleton, Jolynn Fabiano, Dal Haverland, Ilona Johnson, Keith Jurasevich, Joy Lathrop, Doug and Jody Martin, Shirley Watson, Genevieve Youngquist as well as the family and friends of Ted Hicks upon his death and the friends of former member Floyd Hale upon his death. Floyd lived in Portland.

Pastor's Bible Study via Zoom Wednesdays at 11am. No preparation needed. If you'd like to join Pastor Laurie as we study the readings for the upcoming Sunday. Click [here](#) for the Zoom link.



WOMEN'S PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

Central Women's Prayer and Bible Study meets weekly on Thursdays at 11am via Zoom using the Bible study guides found in the ELCA's **Gather Magazine**.

Please note: Even if you cannot make every meeting, by ordering the Gather magazine you will have the readings and can stay current. For more information and to receive the Zoom link to your inbox please contact Arlene Dietz at dietzal@aol.com.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Note the time change: The men's Bible Study is now meeting in person in the Library on Wednesdays at 7am. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information contact Chuck Dietz at cdietz41@gmail.com.

Central Lutheran Church			
Jan-August 2021 Compared to Jan-August 2020 Income:Expense Summary			
	Jan-Aug 2021	Jan-Aug 2020	Difference
Regular Envelopes	\$ 364,199.81	\$ 373,233.06	\$ (9,033.25)
Other Offerings	768.10	\$ 2,345.90	\$ (1,577.80)
Holiday Offerings	5,590.00	\$ 4,253.00	\$ 1,337.00
Other Income	38,223.21	\$ 20,448.14	\$ 17,775.07
Departmental Income	57,869.57	\$ 39,414.95	\$ 18,454.62
Total Income	\$ 466,650.69	\$ 439,695.05	\$ 26,955.64
Total Expenses	\$ 506,945.34	\$ 452,247.01	\$ 54,698.33
YTD Net Income	\$ (40,294.65)	\$ (12,551.96)	\$ (27,742.69)
Prorated carryover-Previous Year	\$ 40,889.33	\$ 8,813.33	\$ 32,076.00
Net after carryover applied	\$ 594.68	\$ (3,738.63)	\$ 4,333.31



Address changes

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